

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEDAN 00534 010516Z

14

ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 L-03 INSE-00

VOE-00 IO-10 /031 W

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R 010430Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 542

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS MEDAN 0534

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BOARD JAPANESE VESSEL

1. ON 30 SEPTEMBER, LOCAL REP FOR SAMUDERA INDONESIA SHIPPING AGENCY CALLED CONSULATE TO ALERT US TO IMPENDING ARRIVAL AT BELAWAN PORT OF JAPANESE SHIP WITH FOURTEEN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BOARD. HE ASKED ABOUT US POLICY REGARDING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND WHETHER OR NOT US MIGHT TAKE THESE FOURTEEN PEOPLE. WE TOLD HIM THAT US CONSIDERS SUCH REFUGEES TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NATION IN WHICH VESSEL IS REGISTERED AND/OR COUNTRY WHERE THEY MIGHT BE LANDED.

2. ON 1 OCTOBER, A MR. SHOJI, REPRESENTATIVE OF TOKYO SENPAKU SHIPPING COMPANY, CALLED WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION: THE JAPANESE VESSEL SHOKO MARU ON 27 SEPTEMBER PICKED UP FOURTEEN VIETNAMESE (NINE MEN AND FIVE WOMEN) IN OPEN SEA OFF SAIGON. SHOKO MARU NOW AT PASIR GUDANG, MALAYSIA AND WILL ARRIVE AT BELAWAN PORT ON 4 OCTOBER. WILL LOAD PALM OIL AND THEN PROCEED TO SINGAPORE ON 7-18 OCTOBER AND THENCE TO JAPAN. HE SAID SHIP IS VERY CROWDED AND SHORT OF FOOD. HE ASKED IF WE WOULD ASSIST HIM IN HAVING THEM DISEMBARKED AT BELAWAN. ALSO ASKED ABOUT US POLICY ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

3. WE INFORMED MR. SHOJI THAT WE CONSIDERED THESE VIETNAMESE TO
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BE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF JAPAN AND/OR INDONESIA. WE REFERRED

HIM TO THE JAPANESE CONSULATE TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE WITH INDONESIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL. (WHEN WE QUERIED JAPANESE CONSUL ABOUT MATTER, HE PROFESSED TO KNOW NOTHING BUT PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED IF HE LEARNS ANYTHING. WE ALSO ADVISED HIM OF US REFUGEE POLICY WITH RESPECT TO SITUATIONS SUCH AS THIS.)

4. BELIEVE WE HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST OF THIS. UNDERSTAND THAT MALAYSIA AND POSSIBLY SINGAPORE HAVE ALREADY REFUSED TO PERMIT THESE PEOPLE TO BE LANDED THERE. WILL ADVISE OF DEVELOPMENTS.

KILPATRICK

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